

Appl. No. 09/973,249
Amdt. dated 1/17/06
Reply to Office Action of 9/28/05

PATENT
Docket: 010085

REMARKS

Claims 12-20, 22, 31-36, 38 and 39 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 12, 13, 16, 18-20, 22, 31-36, 38 and 39 have been amended, and claims 1 through 11, 21, 23-30 and 37 have been canceled. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Objected to Claims 22, 35, 36 and 39

Claims 22, 35, 36 and 39 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of independent claim 1. Claims 35 and 36 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of independent claim 30. Claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of independent claim 37. Accordingly, the objected claims should now all be allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1-7, 11-17, 21 and 23-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-7, 11-17, 21 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kawabe, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,613). This rejection has been obviated in view of the cancellation herein of claims 1-11, 21 and 23-27 and the further amendments to claims 12-13 and 16 appearing above in which these claims are now presented in allowable form. Rejected claims 23-27 have been canceled. Accordingly, the §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 8-10, 18-20, 29-34 and 37-38 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-10, 18-20, 29-34 and 37-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kawabe, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,613). This rejection has been obviated in view of the cancellation herein of claims 8-10, 29-30 and 37 and the further amendments to claims 18-20, 31-34 and 38 appearing above in which these claims are now presented in allowable form. Accordingly, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/17/06

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